

3/25/2014
#2



**Michigan
Agri-Business
Association**

1501 North Shore Drive, Suite A
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

www.miagbiz.org

Telephone (517) 336-0223

Fax (517) 336-0227

To: Chairwoman Andrea LaFontaine and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee

Thank you, Madame Chair, and members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to discuss House Bills 5400, 5401 and 5402, and I want to make several observations about these bills. This testimony is a bit difficult due to the substitute bills introduced in the past 24 hours, so I don't want to be too specific until we have had a chance to review the most current versions.

The Michigan Agri-Business Association is more than 100 years old, and has more than 500 members across the state. This includes fertilizer manufacturers, distributors and retailers of all sizes across Michigan. We first became involved with these bills Thursday and Friday of last week, after they were introduced less than two weeks ago. We were not previously engaged in any workgroups, discussions or review of these bills prior to that time.

Having reviewed the previous drafts of this legislation, we understand the basic intent of the bills. We want to be sure that those industrial and commercial materials we are concerned with are included and addressed within this legislation, and that these are comprehensive bills. We look forward to working with the sponsors and others to make sure the bills accomplish their objective, and that they do not infringe on other products and companies that work in this space.

We think it is important to engage our national affiliate organizations, associations and experts on these kinds of materials, as well as similar legislation our broader fertilizer industry has been involved with over the years. That will take some time, but as soon as we have the most current form of the legislation, we will proceed to gather this input and we will be sure to provide that to the Committee and your staff.

Finally, I would add that while we are being more and more precise with how we apply crop nutrients, fertilizer, to fields across the state with grid sampling and variable rate fertilizer application, these materials need to fit into those systems and complement the many forward-

looking efforts underway within the fertilizer industry to further improve nutrient management. This is especially important as we face more and more concerns about water quality.

We appreciate the efforts of the sponsors and Chairwoman to provide additional opportunity for work on these bills. Thank you for keeping them in committee so that we can work with all involved, resolve any remaining disagreements and make them the best that they can be.